

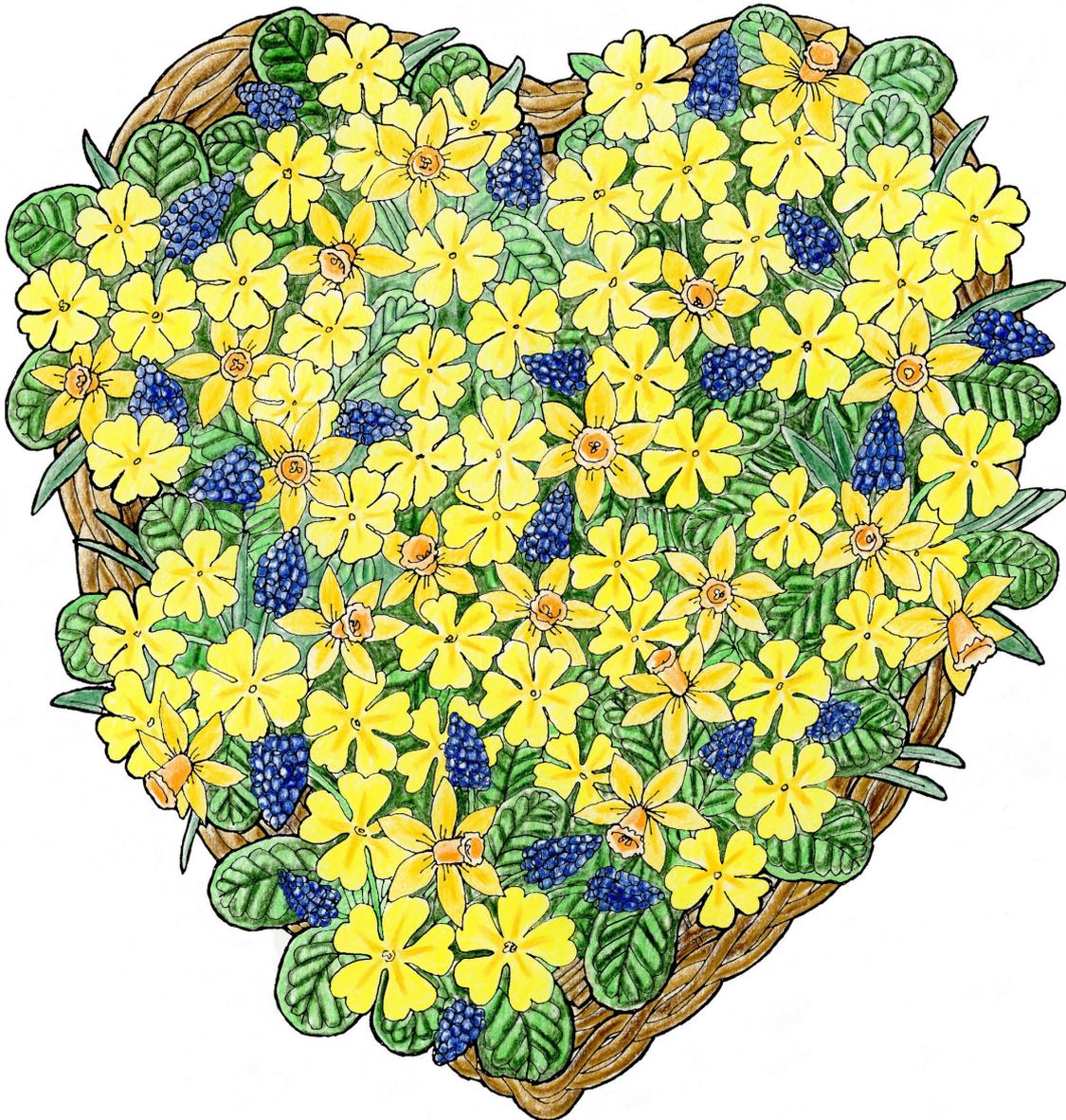
# The Minsterley Parish Magazine

with the Stiperstones church group:  
Snailbeach, Habberley, Hope & Shelve



incorporating news from the Chirbury Hills benefice:  
Corndon Marsh, Trelystan,  
Chirbury, Middleton, Leighton, Marton,

# THANK YOU





# Holy Trinity Church, Minsterley



**Rector:** Rev. Greg Smith  
(day off - Friday)  
The Deanery, Pontesbury  
07902 794653  
rectorpontstip@gmail.com

**Associate Minister:** Rev. Fran Brealey  
(days off - Mon, Fri, Sat)  
07982 324760  
revfran@btinternet.com

**Curate:** Rev. Richard Lonsdale  
(day off - Tuesday)  
The New Vicarage, Minsterley  
07922 830488  
richardlonsdale1@gmail.com

**Church Wardens**  
Susan Lockwood 07854 110271  
Sarah Edwards 07971 984925

**Treasurer**  
Mike Bowen 07826 061054  
mintreasure@btinternet.com

## Church services this month

Sunday 1st	4.00pm	Tea-time service
Sunday 8th	10.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday 15th	10.30am	Minsterley Praise on MOTHERING SUNDAY
Sunday 22nd	10.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday 29th	10.30am	GROUP service at St Georges Pontesbury

## Other events this month

Thu 5th	Knitter Natter (EVERY Thursday) (p21)
Fri 6th	World Day of Prayer (p13)
Sat 7th	Coffee Morning (p13)
Mon 9th	Crafty Monday (p21)
Tues 10th	Oasis meeting (p21) Ichthus Bible study (p15) Parish Council meeting (p11)
Sun 15th	Wildlife Group walk (p15)
Tue 17th	The Gathering (p4)
Wed 18th	u3a open meeting (p17)
Sat 21st	Eisteddfod (p7)
Sun 22nd	Eisteddfod concert (p7)
Tue 24th	Oasis (p21) Ichthus Bible study (p15)
Sat 28th	Methodist Open Day (p34)

## Weekly events in the church (see page 31)

Monday	3.30pm	Youth Café
Tuesday	10.00am	Foodbank
Wednesday	10.00am	Coffee Hub
Thursday	10.00am	Trinity Tots

**Monthly diary for Chirbury Hills events -  
see page 19**

The Minsterley Parish Magazine is published by Holy Trinity Church.

Copy date for the next issue is the 20th of the month

**Editor:** David Young      **Tel:** 01743 537081

**e-mail:** MinsterleyParishMagazine@gmail.com

**To advertise:** see details on page 23

## **“Risk Taking Love” a reflection on a mother’s love.**

In the middle of Lent, at a time when Christians are encouraged to prayerfully think about their lives and how they might reflect the goodness and love of God, we celebrate Mothering Sunday. It’s a time to honour and appreciate our mothers. How precious it is to know that unconditional and constant compassion in our lives, and how we miss it when it isn’t there.

One of the best descriptions of unconditional love can be found in the Bible. We often hear it read at weddings: *“Love always protects, always trusts, always hopes, never gives up... Love never fails” (1 Corinthians 13 v.7-8a)*. The Bible contains wonderful example of this kind of love in the story of a mother who comes to Jesus seeking healing for her daughter. The woman is a Canaanite. Today you might well describe her as a Palestinian and, in much the same way, relationships between Jews and Canaanites were not good. We see that playing out in this encounter.

It took some courage for this woman to seek help from a Jew, even if that Jew was Jesus. But if you truly love someone, you’ll be willing to take the risks. You can find the original account in Matthew chapter 15, but I have paraphrased it:

Arisha didn’t know what was wrong. Yasmine her daughter was in a terrible state. She was up and down. She could be smiling one minute and crying or shouting the next. Sometimes she would hurt herself, badly... and it was getting worse! Yasmine was a cauldron of rage and desperation. It was as if she had something living in her that made her sad or angry or scared or everything at the same time. Arisha loved her daughter, and she wasn’t going to take this anymore. Her daughter needed help, and she was going to get it. After all, love wants to protect doesn’t it... *Love always protects.*

Arisha had heard of Jesus. He was different. He was a Jew and she was a Caananite, and they didn’t get on. But Jesus seemed like someone she could trust. He loved people and he healed people. Yasmine needed loving and healing. So Arisha said to Yasmine, “I’m going to get help, I won’t be long.” And off she went to find Jesus. She found him with his disciples, and she didn’t waste any time. “Lord, Son of David, help me. My daughter has an evil spirit and is suffering terribly.” It was time to trust... *Love always trusts.*

He didn’t seem to be listening. Perhaps he was thinking about something else. She shouted a bit louder until the disciples said to Jesus, “Haven’t you heard the Canaanite woman?” Jesus said, “I have to help the lost Israelite tribes first.”

Well Arisha could have lost hope right then... she could have gone home in despair thinking it was all over. But ‘No Way!’ Jesus may have plans she didn’t understand, and know things she didn’t know, but she was going to trust his compassion. She wasn’t going to lose hope: *Love always hopes.*

She walked right up to Jesus, “Lord, help me.” “Do you think it’s right for me to help you before my own people?” Jesus asked, “Wouldn’t that be like giving the children’s food to the dog instead?” Arisha looked at Jesus. She trusted and she hoped, and she wasn’t going to give up... because *love never gives up!*

“That may be true,” she said to Jesus, “But even dogs need feeding, and who else is going to feed them except the master?” Then Jesus looked at her and smiled. “Woman,” he said, “You have great faith! You trusted, and you hoped, and you haven’t given up. Your prayer is answered and your daughter is well.”

Arisha walked, no, *ran* home... filled with the love that protects, trusts, hopes and never gives up. She ran to her daughter who was waiting at the door, smiling, full of love, joy and peace. This love, which protected and trusted and hoped and never gave up, would never fail. Yasmine discovered her mother loved her like that. And Arisha rejoiced in her discovery that Jesus had recognised it, supported it and blessed it with his own unconditional love that had overflowed the differences between them. The risk was worth it.

God made true love to be like that. By the end of this month and of Lent we will see that unconditional, overflowing love in action as Jesus, on the Cross, risks and sacrifices everything for love of us all. Easter is when Christians most appreciate the love of Jesus that always protects, always trusts, always hopes, and never gives up on us.

May we all discover God’s unconditional love for us in Jesus. May we find thankfulness and delight in honouring our mothers and all those who have loved and mothered us. May we learn to bless others with that same compassionate risk-taking love, whatever the distance and differences between us.

**Rev Stuart Carter**

## Deanery of Pontesbury

Rural Dean: Rev Greg Smith

telephone: 07902 794653 • email: rectorpontstip@gmail.com

### Lent: An invitation to draw close to God

For millions of Christians around the world Lent is a season for reflection; an opportunity to draw closer to God by making space for prayer, Bible reading and contemplating God's amazing love. Fasting or 'giving-up' something is a spiritual discipline that many engage with during Lent as a means of focussing on God's saving love.

I wonder what Lent means to you? I suspect many of us see it as an opportunity to "give up" or fast from something in the period between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday. For some reason chocolate seems to be high on the list of things to give up! Of course, it might be other things too – sweets, alcoholic beverages, switching off from social media, not eating meat and lots of other things.

Have you given up something for Lent? If so, how are you getting on? Excited at how well you're doing or exhausted by the whole experience so far? Is your heart soaring up or sinking down? I think all of us will have different feelings and experiences whatever we choose to do or not to do during Lent. Some of us find it easier to engage with spiritual disciplines like fasting or praying than others.

Whatever practice we might engage with during Lent, at the heart of it lies our motivation. What is it that we're seeking after? Are we simply chasing after an experience or are we wanting to experience more of God's presence in our lives? It's a question worth pondering.

I don't know where you might be on your journey of faith. Perhaps you've been a follower of Jesus for many decades. Perhaps you've just begun to explore the Christian faith. Perhaps you're somewhere in between. Perhaps like me you long for more of God's presence in your life – you long to know and experience more of Him on a daily basis.

If that's true, then let me encourage you to seek God wholeheartedly in this season of Lent and

beyond. There's a wonderful promise in the Old Testament book of Jeremiah where God says, 'You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart' (Jeremiah 29:13).

We can seek after God by reading his word in the Bible (why not start with Mark's gospel in the New Testament), through prayer, fasting, worship, in silence, stillness and contemplation. There are also many helpful Bible apps that you can listen to such as Lectio 365 which contain a short Bible passage and a reflection to help you. One size doesn't fit all. See what works for you. The important thing is to be intentional. Nurture a daily habit of spending time with God in prayer, Bible reading and listening. Why not try 10 or 15 minutes a day for Lent and see how things go. You've got nothing to lose and everything to gain!

**Rev Freddie Strong**

The Benefice of Great Hanwood,  
Longden & Annscroft with Pulverbatch



**The Gathering**  
An evening of Praising & Worshipping God  
*Encourage one another and build each other up,  
just as in fact you are doing.*  
(1 Thessalonians 5: 11)  
Everyone welcome

**Refreshments** | **Tues 17th March,**  
**from 7.00 p.m.** | **7.30 p.m. start**

 Marton Village Hall

We don't call it sin today; we call it self-expression.

- *Baroness Stocks*

Deanery News editor: Ann Jones ([annmorganjones456@gmail.com](mailto:annmorganjones456@gmail.com))

Copy to be submitted by 10<sup>th</sup> of previous month please.

## *World News . . . .*

. . . .or “some more of the items you are not likely to see on the TV news”

### **Victims of mass church abduction in Kaduna State, Nigeria, now free**

More than eighty Christians held by Fulani Islamists for nearly three weeks following a mass abduction in the Middle Belt state of Kaduna, Nigeria, have now been freed. The news was confirmed by the Christian Association of Nigeria on 5th February. Later that day, Kaduna State Governor Uba Sani welcomed 172 of those abducted at Government House.

Islamist terrorists raided the village of Kurmin Wali, Kajuru Local Government Area, on Sunday 18th January, kidnapping worshippers from three church services as well as from homes. Around half of those abducted were able to escape in the days that followed, with church leaders calling for more urgent action at the beginning of February, as more than eighty remained in captivity. Initial reports stated that 177 people had been taken, while Governor Sani said that the full total was 183. “We would not be sitting here if even one person was still missing,” he confirmed.



Governor Uba Sani of Kaduna State

[Image credit: Kaduna State Government]

Some of the abductees shared details of their ordeal, saying they had been forced to trek for six days to the terrorists’ hideout near a river. “They were beating the men,” said one woman. “Even children were being flogged because they said the crying children were disturbing them. “It was a horrible experience. We thank God we returned safely.”

The governor explained that all those abducted would receive specialist medical care to ensure they were physically and mentally fit before returning home. He added that the government would provide support for the many victims who had lost income during their captivity.

### **Two Pakistani Christian nurses acquitted of “blasphemy” after four years**

Two Christian nurses who were accused of “blasphemy” in Punjab, Pakistan, in April 2021 have been acquitted. Maryam Lal (then 52) and Newosh Arooj (then 19) were accused by a senior doctor at the Civil Hospital in Faisalabad of committing “blasphemy” by removing from a cupboard a sticker that had a Quranic text written on it.

The decision to acquit was made by Judge Muzafar Ali Anjum at the Court of Additional Sessions in Faisalabad on 29 November 2025 on the grounds that the complainant had failed to substantiate the charge. The deadline to appeal the decision has now passed.

In the aftermath of the “blasphemy” accusation hospital staff staged a demonstration demanding legal action against Maryam and Newosh. The demonstration was joined by extremists who threatened to kill both women. Maryam was attacked and injured with a knife before the pair were taken to safety by police.

The women were charged with “blasphemy” under section 295-B of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC), which carries a mandatory sentence of life imprisonment for anybody who “wilfully defiles, damages or desecrates” a Quran or an extract from the Quran. After spending five months in prison, both were granted bail on 9 September 2021.

The trial began on 10 July 2021 and lasted for more than four years. During this time, Maryam and Newosh remained on bail, but were unable to work and faced constant threats.

Pakistan’s notorious “blasphemy” laws are often used to make false accusations in order to settle personal grudges. Christians and other religious minorities are especially vulnerable, and the lower courts usually favour the testimony of Muslims, in accordance with sharia (Islamic law).

Accusations of “blasphemy” frequently trigger mob violence and even killings.

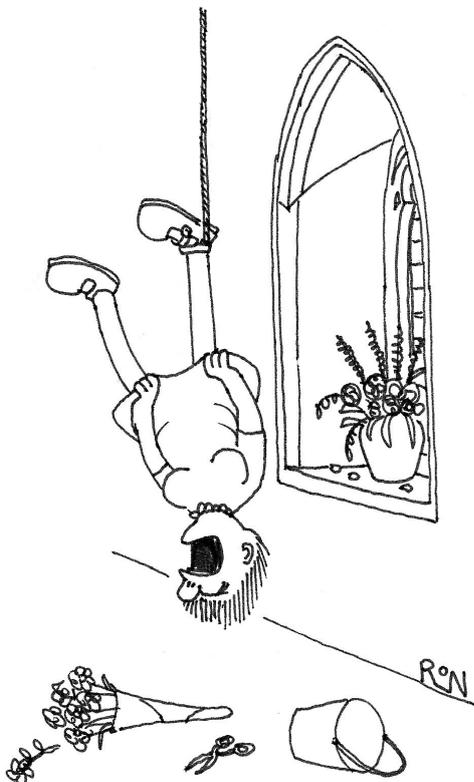


Making your offering through regular monthly donations as part of the **Parish Giving Scheme** is an excellent way of supporting your church. We ask each donor to set up a Direct Debit arrangement between their bank or building society and their Parish Giving Scheme account. This allows donations to be made even when attendance in person at our services is not possible. If your circumstances allow, we ask that you allow us to claim tax relief on your donations via Gift Aid. This is our much-preferred way of receiving regular giving.

For further details, please contact Mike Bowen at [mintreasure@btinternet.com](mailto:mintreasure@btinternet.com).

Thank you.

Greg Smith



Mrs Stebbings always did the flowers in the South Window, as Mrs Todger soon learned

Following a discussion between the editor and a member of the congregation about the sentimental Victoriana in the song, "All things bright and beautiful", we received the following extra verses:

The lapid-facéd vulture  
That tears up flesh and bone  
It's quite devoid of culture  
And therefore lives alone.

The purple giant hogweed  
With painful toxic sting;  
Now every cat and dog need  
To mew or bark or sing.

*All things dark and ugly  
All creatures fat and thin  
All things thick and slimy  
That you'd put in the bin.*

The swamp and bog and nettles  
That make your walk a pain.  
God made them for a joke, and  
Then added extra rain.

*Biting stinging insects,  
For bats and spiders too;  
All things creeping, flying,  
O Lord we do thank you.*

The author has allowed these to be 'public access' so that you do not require copyright permission to use his verses.

Children are the anchors that hold a mother to life.  
- Sophocles

What's done to children, they will do to society.  
- Karl Menninger

For a wife, take the daughter of a good mother.  
- Fuller.

Simply having children does not make a mother.  
- Anon

Her children arise up and call her blessed.  
- Proverbs 31.28

What is Raphael's Madonna but the shadow of a mother's love, fixed in permanent outline forever?  
- T W Higginson

One good mother is worth a hundred schoolmasters.  
- George Herbert



## Minsterley Eisteddfod

On Saturday March 21st and Sunday March 22nd, Minsterley will host a wonderful weekend of entertainment. Starting on Saturday morning and continuing throughout the day, contestants young and old will have the opportunity to perform and share their talents on the stage in Minsterley Parish Hall.

The day will hold a delightful mix of recitations, vocal solos, instrumental solos, group work in speaking, singing and playing and choirs. Some classes, earlier on in the day, have set pieces but many are own-choice resulting in an amazingly varied programme of every genre.

We will have written work on display in the Callow Room with poems, stories, limericks and hymn words; where you will also find our café providing hot and cold drinks, freshly made sandwiches and an array of cakes.

**We are open all day to the public to come along and enjoy this unique festival and celebration of the arts, and we would love to see you there.**

We always conclude our weekend with a celebrity concert and this year we are delighted to be welcoming back the very popular and award-winning Rhos Male Voice Choir under the baton of James Llewelyn-Jones with soloist Aled Wyn Davies. However, this year our concert is extra special because it is dedicated to the memory of our dear friend Bronwen Evans. Bronwen was a leading light of our volunteer-run Eisteddfod, giving her heart and soul to its success. She was the first one there on Eisteddfod day and the last one to leave at night, and worked tirelessly throughout the year to ensure everything ran smoothly. During the evening, we will celebrate Bronwen's love of the arts in all its forms and especially her commitment to encouraging young people starting out on their performance journeys.

Tickets for this concert at £20 & £15 are available by phoning Jill Blyth on 01743 791908 or via our email [minsterleyeisteddfod@gmail.com](mailto:minsterleyeisteddfod@gmail.com). Information about our event, what we have to offer and how you can become involved are available at [minsterleyeisteddfod.com](http://minsterleyeisteddfod.com).

Lesley Holder



Rea Valley  
foodbank



Supporting those in food crisis within the Rea Valley Community



Jonathan Brown, Foodbank treasurer, with  
Craig Pugh, Pontesbury Co-op manager

### Thank you to Pontesbury Co-Op for a £250 cheque toward Foodbank costs

Craig Pugh, Pontesbury Co-Op Manager, enabled the Foodbank to gain this generous grant from the Co-Op which will go towards our running costs. We really appreciate Craig's help, the staff at the store, and all the support from our local communities.

**Please keep donating** in-date tinned and packaged food, toiletries, and cleaning products. All donations are very welcome; it is especially helpful if you can check our "Items in Need" on our website <https://reavalleyfoodbank.co.uk/donating/>.

**Please help us by telling people about our Foodbank** as we know there are people out there who need our help. Do encourage them to take the first step. It's easy to get referred - they can contact us themselves or you can contact us on their behalf. You are welcome to come along with them to their first Foodbank visit and stay for a hot drink and a chat. Our volunteers are friendly and non-judgmental, so please do try us.

**To use the Foodbank or find out more** call for a chat with Rev Greg Smith (07902 794653) or Rev Richard Lonsdale (07922 830488), or ask your local clergy, GP, school, nursery, social/health worker, housing provider or other support agency. See our website: <https://reavalleyfoodbank.co.uk/> or Facebook.

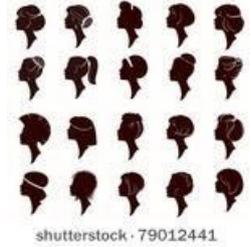


Jean Garner



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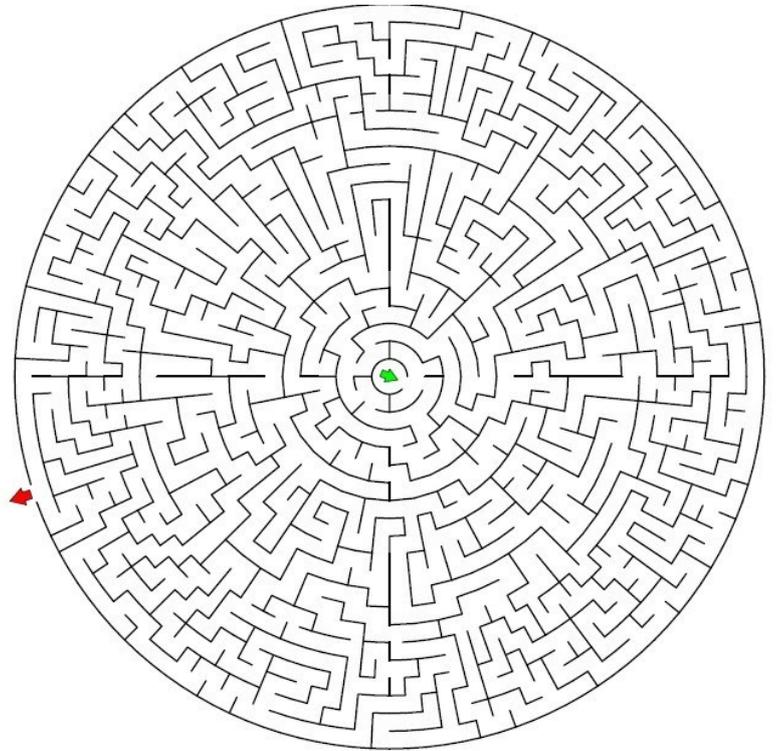
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## Puzzle Page

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### Love and serve one another

On Maundy Thursday we recall the final command that Jesus gave to his disciples before his death. After the Last Supper, He rose and washed his disciples' feet. This was astonishing for a 'teacher' to do, but He had a firm purpose in mind: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another."

His disciples were to love through service, not domination, of one another.

In Latin, the opening phrase of this sentence is '*mandatum novum do vobis*'. The word 'mundy' is thus a corruption of the Latin '*mandatum*' (or command). The 'washing of the feet' ceremony was an important part of the medieval church's liturgy, symbolising the humility of the clergy, in obedience to the example of Christ.

Maundy	As
Thursday	Loved
Final	You
Command	Must
Jesus	One
Disciples	Another
Death	Service
Last	Domination
Supper	Latin
Washed	Ceremony
Feet	Medieval
Astonishing	Humility
Purpose	Obedience
Teacher	



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**We look forward to seeing you.**

### MINSTERLEY 59 CLUB

#### WINNERS 2026

Draw	Date	No.	Winner
3	21 <sup>st</sup> January	19	Tony Bishton
4	28 <sup>th</sup> January	15	Yvonne Holyoak
5	4 <sup>th</sup> February	5	Moira Sheridan
6	11 <sup>th</sup> February	52	Caroline Holloway

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## Minsterley Parish Council

As part of the Local Nature Recovery Plan, a small area next to the Callow Lane play area would be included for the planting of wildflowers.

Electric cabling would be extended to both ends of the Parish Hall to enable those areas to display Christmas trees and lights next Christmas, similar to the roadside display last December.

Highways would be contacted again, regarding their future plans for improvements to the road island in The Square.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be at 7pm on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March in Minsterley Parish Hall.

**Geoff Rogers**  
Chairman, Minsterley Parish Council  
[www.minsterley.org.uk](http://www.minsterley.org.uk)

To contact the parish council, e-mail:  
[clerk@minsterley.org.uk](mailto:clerk@minsterley.org.uk)

Smiling is infectious  
You catch it like the flu  
When someone smiled at me today  
I started smiling too  
I walked around the corner  
And someone saw me grin  
When he smiled I realised  
I had passed it on to him  
I thought about the smile  
And then realised its worth  
A single smile like mine  
Could travel round the earth  
So if you feel a smile begin  
Don't leave it undetected  
Start an epidemic  
And get the world infected.



**Shropshire  
Hills  
National  
Landscape**

## Shropshire Hills Forum & Field Visits

This year, the Shropshire Hills Forum & Field Visits is at Clun Memorial Hall, Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April, 10am – 3.30pm. It aims to be a welcoming and inspiring event, themed around:

- Celebrating a decade of community conservation
- Thriving in Balance with Nature in the Shropshire Hills
- A shared vision for the catchment of the River Clun

The event includes speakers and structured activity, along with plenty of time for informal networking and afternoon activities. Field trips include a walk on Whinberry Hill to hear about a community project to restore heathland habitat, a farm visit to see the work on the ground to retain and slow water whilst improving water quality and biodiversity, and a Clun Town Heritage Walk. We

also have an Interpretation workshop and a “Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme” drop-in advisory session.

The Forum is built around sharing ideas and knowledge, and will showcase some of the brilliant work happening locally to help protect and regenerate this special landscape.

The event is free; a donation towards catering costs is appreciated and booking is required. To see the programme and to book your place please visit our website at:

[www.shropshirehill-nl@shropshire.gov.uk](http://www.shropshirehill-nl@shropshire.gov.uk), or contact the Shropshire Hills National Landscape team at: [shropshirehills-nl@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:shropshirehills-nl@shropshire.gov.uk), or telephone 01743 254740.

To enquire about display space to showcase work/activity you're involved in which is helping to look after the Shropshire Hills landscape, please get in touch using the email or telephone number above.

**Shropshire Hills National Landscape Team**  
Unit 5 Drovers House, The Auction Yard,  
Craven Arms, SY7 9BZ

telephone: 01743 254740,

email: [shropshirehills-nl@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:shropshirehills-nl@shropshire.gov.uk)

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# WORLD DAY of PRAYER



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**NIGERIA**

*“I will give you rest”*

Matthew 11:28-30

**2.30pm Friday 6th March**  
**Pontesbury Congregational**  
**church**

Followed by refreshments  
*Everyone is very welcome!*



# visual storytelling competition

REFLECTIONS ON WATER

Submit by  
30th  
April

We want to hear your stories

Use photography and storytelling to answer the question:

**What challenges does your community face around water?  
What does a sustainable water future look like?**

Capture images, and share ideas for tackling local water challenges like flooding, drought, pollution, and loss of nature.

Submit up to three photos with a short caption telling the story behind the photo(s)

Find out more and submit your entry at the website below

[severnvalleywatermanagementscheme.commonplace.is](http://severnvalleywatermanagementscheme.commonplace.is)



you're invited to a



# COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 7th March



10am - 12pm  
at Holy Trinity  
Minsterley

everyone welcome



*One of my churchwardens is a stickler for 'Health and Safety'...*

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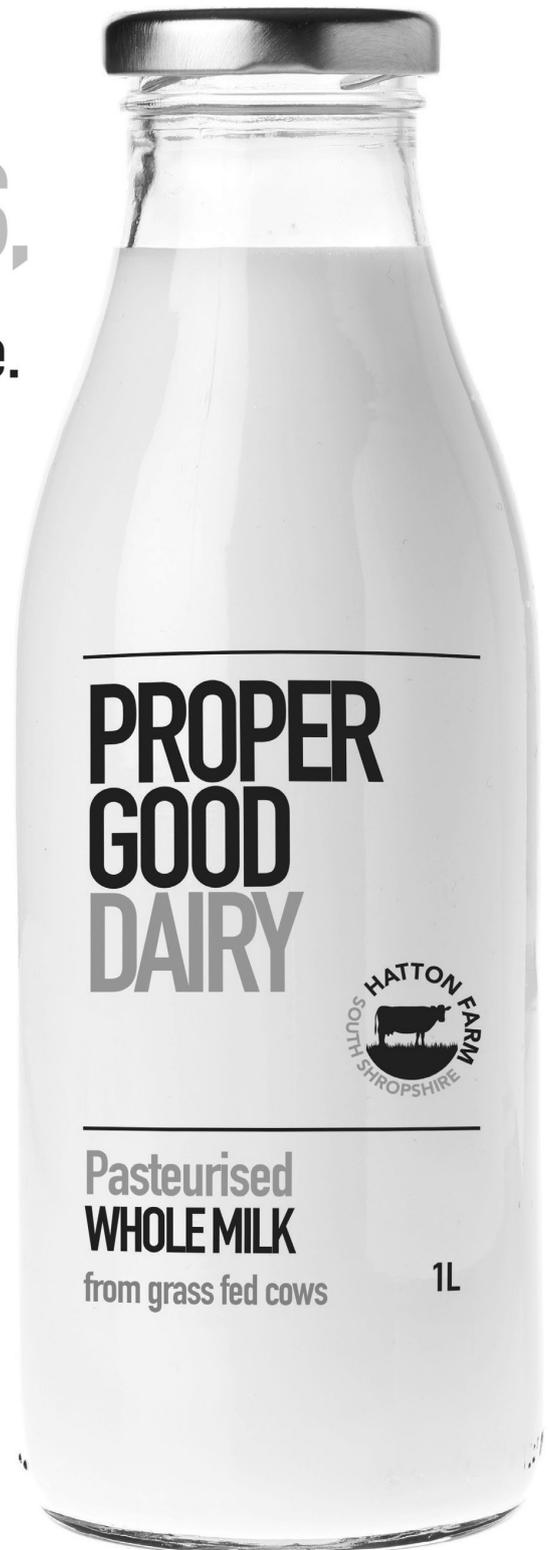
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# REA VALLEY COMMUNITY WILDLIFE GROUP

## MONTHLY WALKS : 2026



Join our friendly Rea Valley Community Wildlife Group at our monthly local walks - providing an opportunity to discover local flora and fauna together.

**Free to attend and no booking required.**

<b>Sun 18<sup>th</sup> Jan</b> 10am - 1pm Stapeley Saunter Mitchell's Fold Car Park <i>cabbages.update.quantity</i>	<b>Sat 14<sup>th</sup> Feb</b> 10am - 1pm Snailbeach Woods Walkabout Snailbeach Car Park <i>works.plenty.ecologist</i>	<b>Sun 15<sup>th</sup> Mar</b> 10am - 1pm Earls Hill Lope Pontesford Hill Car Park <i>marginal.owns.transcribes</i>	<b>Sat 18<sup>th</sup> Apr</b> 10am - 1pm Gatten Yomp Gatton Daffodil Car Park <i>hedge.scales.freshest</i>
<b>Sun 17<sup>th</sup> May</b> 10am - 1pm Buxton Hill Stroll Viewpoint Car Park Tankerville <i>games.cheeses.strongman</i>	<b>Sat 20<sup>th</sup> Jun</b> 10am - 1pm Minsterley Mooch On street, Minsterley <i>mush.harsh.factories</i>	<b>Sun 19<sup>th</sup> Jul</b> 10am - 1pm Hinton Hike Station Road Car Park, Pontesbury <i>irritated.swift.freedom</i>	<b>Sat 15<sup>th</sup> Aug</b> 10am - 1pm Pulverbatch Plod Pulverbatch Car Park <i>wriggle.disbelief.housework</i>
<b>Sun 20<sup>th</sup> Sep</b> 10am - 1pm The Hollies Bimble Snailbeach Car Park <i>works.plenty.ecologist</i>	<b>Sat 17<sup>th</sup> Oct</b> 10am - 1pm Hope Valley Amble Hope Valley Nature Reserve Car Park <i>movements.ankle.logs</i>	<b>Sun 15<sup>th</sup> Nov</b> 10am - 1pm Eastridge Excursion Eastridge Wood Car Park <i>buzzards.uniforms.swift</i>	<b>Sat 12<sup>th</sup> Dec</b> 10am - 1pm Stiperstones Stomp Stiperstones Inn Car Park <i>foods.grownup.overdone</i>

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Active and vibrant Whatsapp group also available



A teacher told her young class of children to try and draw the portrait of someone they knew. While they worked, she walked about, keeping an eye on their progress. One little girl was working diligently, and the teacher asked who she was drawing. The child replied: "I'm drawing God." The teacher protested that no one knows what God looks like. Without missing a beat, or looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, "They will in a minute."

*Here are the real-life answers from children:*

### How do you decide who to marry?

You got to find somebody who likes the same stuff. Like, if you like sports, she should like it that you like sports, and she should keep the chips and dip coming.

- Alan, age 10

No person really decides before they grow up who they're going to marry. God decides it all way before, and you get to find out later who you're stuck with.

- Kirsten, age 10

### How can you tell if two people are married?

You have to guess, based on whether they seem to be yelling at the same kids.- Derrick, age 8

### What do most people do on a date?

Dates are for having fun, and people should use them to get to know each other. Even boys have something to say if you listen long enough.

- Lynnette, age 8

### How would you make a marriage work?

Always tell your wife that she looks pretty, even if she looks like a train wreck - Ricky, age 10

**Your word is a lamp to my feet  
and a light to my path.**  
Psalm 119 : 105

## ICHTHUS



The Autumn session of 'Ichthus' meetings concludes this month. Anyone with a desire to study the Bible with others is welcome to come. Meetings start at 2.30pm on Tuesday afternoons.

**Liz Jackson 01743 791352**

March 10th	Brookfield Waterwheel	Luke 2:33- 35 Colossians 3:12-17 1 Samuel 1:20-end
March 24th	The Blessing Snailbeach	Matthew 21:1-11 Psalm 118: v.1-2 & v.19-29

## Bible Readings in church this month

March 1st	March 8th	March 15th	March 22nd	March 29th
Genesis 12.1-4a	Exodus 17.1-7	1 Samuel 1. 20-end	Psalm 130	<i>Palm Sunday Gospel</i>
Psalm 121	Romans 5.1-11	Colossians 3. 12-17	Romans 8. 6-11	
John 3.1-17	John 4.5-42	Luke 2. 33-35	John 8. 1-11	

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or

[danlewisfitness@btinternet.com](mailto:danlewisfitness@btinternet.com)

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(2pm Dec, & Jan)

For more information contact Sue:

tel: 07375 463536

e-mail: [suexjohnson@gmail.com](mailto:suexjohnson@gmail.com)

theWI  
INSPIRING WOMEN



The Rea Valley Transport Scheme has now been up and running since the end of September. In that time, we have transported nearly thirty patients to a variety of venues including Shrewsbury Hospital, Pontesbury Surgery and Gobowen.

The scheme, which is entirely free, is designed to get patients to doctors, dentists, hospital, opticians and other wellbeing services. We can never guarantee to be able to help but have been able to respond positively to most requests.

To request transport please contact our scheme administrator, Emma, by calling 07468 115939 or email [reavalleytransportscheme.info@gmail.com](mailto:reavalleytransportscheme.info@gmail.com). She works Monday-Friday 10-2.30 and 3.30-5. We do not operate an answer machine service so please call back if you receive no answer. If possible please give us a minimum of a week's notice of when and where your appointment is.

Holy Trinity Church



# MARCH SERVICES

10.30am

- 1st March      Tea Time Church (4pm)
- 8th March      Holy Communion
- 15th March     Minsterley Praise  
Mothering Sunday
- 22nd March     Holy Communion
- 29th March     Group Service for Palm Sunday  
at St George's, Pontesbury

Contact Rev'd Greg Smith  
rectorpontstip@gmail.com  
07902794653  
[www.stiperstoneschurches.org.uk](http://www.stiperstoneschurches.org.uk)



Open Meeting

**u3a**  
Pontesbury & Rea Valley

# THE LAST MISSION

by Andy Hill



A compelling and unmissable account of the last mission of a WWII bomber that ended over Norway in 1945. u3a member Andy Hill, shares uncovered research, eyewitness testimony, and insights from his visit to Arendal in Norway - alongside the personal story of his grandfather, who served on the flight.

**Wednesday**  
18 March 2026

**Time**  
2.00 PM

**Minsterley Parish Hall**  
SY5 0EH

Free entrance  
Refreshments available  
 [pontesbury.u3asite.uk](http://pontesbury.u3asite.uk)



**u3a** Pontesbury & Rea Valley

At our next Open Meeting on **Wednesday 18th March 2026 2pm** at Minsterley Parish Hall, we'll be welcoming u3a member **Andy Hill** who will present **The Last Mission**, an absorbing exploration of the final flight of a WWII bomber brought down over Norway in 1945. Andy pieces together a vivid and moving account of the operation.

The story is also a deeply personal one. Andy's grandfather served on the aircraft, and although family memories provided fragments of the tale, it was only through extensive research—and the help of a dedicated group of Norwegians who have spent years investigating wartime crashes—that the full narrative came to light.

Informative and reflective, this talk offers a unique perspective on a wartime story that still resonates today.

Following the session, refreshments will be provided, offering a chance to catch up or learn more about our u3a. **Members and Non-Members are welcome.**

Our u3a is part of a UK charity dedicated to bringing together individuals with a focus on those not in full-time employment for enjoyable learning or active experiences. We are local, friendly, and affordable, featuring over 25 interest groups covering a variety of activities, from history, literature and geology to walking, cycling, pickleball and table tennis ...



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

## Sunday services in the Chirbury Hills Group of Parishes

within the Deanery of Pontesbury and the Diocese of Hereford

	Holy Trinity Leighton	St Mary's Trelystan	St Michael's Chirbury	St Mark's Marton-in-Chirbury	Holy Trinity Middleton-in-Chirbury	Corndon Marsh Chapel
1st March	10.00 am Morning Worship Kay		11.15 am Holy Communion & Christening Richard			6.00 pm Holy Communion Fran
8th	No service [Deanery Choral Evensong @ Ford 5pm]			9.00 am Holy Communion Richard	11.15 am Holy Communion Richard	
15th		3.00 pm Holy Communion Richard	No service		10.00 am Family Worship Kay	
22nd	No service			9.00 am Holy Communion Greg		
29th Palm Sunday	10.30 am Joint Benefice Service St Michael's Chirbury Richard					

*You are warmly invited to join us at any of our churches!*

THE CHIRBURY HILLS



GROUP OF PARISHES

### Chirbury Hills Benefice contacts

**Local Lay Minister:** Kay Yeates  
01938 561 640  
[km\\_yeates@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:km_yeates@yahoo.co.uk)

**Lay Worship Leader:** Aster Meyer  
[aster.meyer@pm.me](mailto:aster.meyer@pm.me)

**Safeguarding Officers:**  
Kay Yeates (as above)  
Chris Jerman  
[chrisjerman@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:chrisjerman@yahoo.co.uk)

**Churchwardens:**

**St. Michael's Chirbury**  
Tony Sheppard 01938 561821

**St. Mark's Marton**  
Maureen Jenkins 01938 561645

**Holy Trinity Middleton and The Marsh**  
Kay Yeates 01938 561640  
Emma Bailey-Beech 01686 669971

**Holy Trinity Leighton**  
John Markwick 01938 555043  
Sally Beech 01938 554942

**St. Mary's Trelystan**  
Janet Jones 07967 312460

## Chirbury Hills group of churches

### March - dates for your diary

- 4<sup>th</sup> Lent Lunches start 12.30pm (see below)
- 10<sup>th</sup> Coffee and chat at Chirbury café 10.30am
- 14<sup>th</sup> Messy church at Chirbury 10.30am to 12pm
- 15<sup>th</sup> Mothering Sunday 10am Family Worship at Holy Trinity, Middleton
- 29<sup>th</sup> Group service for Palm Sunday at St. Michael's Chirbury 10.30am

## Come to Lent Lunch

In Marton Village Hall

On February 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, &

March 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> 25<sup>th</sup>, April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Soup, Cheese & Biscuits, Tea & Coffee

For just £ 7- 00

12 -30pm for 1-00pm



All welcome

## Messy Church

March 14<sup>th</sup> 10.30am

## Chirbury Church



Come and join us for craft and stories based on Mothers in the Bible.

The usual biscuit decorating and tasty snacks.

## Mothering Sunday service

March 15<sup>th</sup> 10am

Family Worship at Holy Trinity, Middleton

Flowers for mothers

Tea and biscuits to follow

We should love you to join us, a very warm welcome to all

## Good Friday Pilgrimage 2026

### Friday 3rd April

This annual pilgrimage started in 1982 and visits some beautiful churches. There are some refreshment and toilet breaks throughout the walk.

The walk is on quiet roads, and across open common and farm land, covering around ten miles. There will be uneven paths and stiles to climb. Please wear appropriate footwear and bring a packed lunch and coat (there has been snow before!).

You are welcome to attend the short services without doing the walk, or just complete part of the walk. Well behaved dogs on leads very welcome!

Kay Yeates

- 9.45 am. Park near Middleton church or at Quarry cottage SY15 6BY
- 10.00 am. Service at Middleton church
- 11.20 am. Refreshments at Veronica and David's cottage
- 1.00 pm Service and refreshments at Hope church
- 2.45 pm. Refreshments and service at Shelve church
- 4.30 pm. Service and refreshments at Marsh Tin Church; then walk back over Mitchells Fold to collect cars

## The availability of CPADS (community public access defibrillators) in our area

In 2022, I wrote an article for Snailbeach District News about defibrillators in our area following the deaths of two people whose companions found local defibrillators out of action. Subsequently, money raised through donation boxes in the shop, pub and visitor centre was given to the pub and visitor centre to help towards maintenance. Another local resident ensured some unusable defibrillators became functional.

CPAD, or Community Public Access Defibrillator, is an automated external defibrillator (AED) stored in a secure cabinet in a public location for emergency use. Defibrillators in the UK are sometimes kept in locked cabinets to prevent theft, vandalism, and damage, ensuring they are available and functional during a cardiac arrest. While many are in unlocked, 24/7 accessible cabinets, others require a 4-digit code provided by 999 operators to prevent misuse.

Sites with defibrillators are encouraged to register their devices with The Circuit, the national defibrillator network, endorsed by the British Heart Foundation (BHF). This allows all 14 ambulance services to locate the nearest registered defibrillator when a bystander calls 999 in response to a cardiac arrest. The Circuit also sends maintenance reminders to defibrillator Guardians (the individuals responsible for looking after the defibrillator). There is little point installing a CPAD if no-one is available to maintain it. Some CPADs are either mistakenly unavailable or available but with the wrong information or access codes. If a CPAD is used in an emergency it becomes unavailable, until batteries are replaced. See <https://thecircuit.uk/>

Evidence from The Circuit showed that less than 1% of unlocked cabinets are vandalised, which is less than for locked cabinets. NHS England, BHF, Resuscitation Council UK, St John Ambulance and the Association of Ambulance Chief Executives recommend “public access defibrillators should be placed in unlocked cabinets allowing immediate access in an emergency”.

The National Patient Safety Team reviewed several reports where members of the public, who had been guided to a CPAD, could not get the unlock code or the incorrect code was held by the ambulance control centre.

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/long-read/accessing-community-public-access-defibrillators-cpads/>

Each year, there are over 30,000 out-of-hospital cardiac arrests in the UK. But many defibrillators are not used in an emergency because ambulance services do not know where they are.

Less than 1 in 10 people survive an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest in the UK. Every minute without CPR and defibrillation reduces the chance of survival by up to 10%.

Over 100,000 defibrillators are registered on The Circuit. However it is estimated that tens of thousands of defibrillators are not registered yet. Registering is quick and free.

<https://www.bhf.org.uk/how-you-can-help/how-to-save-a-life/defibrillators/national-defibrillator-network-the-circuit>

Defibfinder ([www.defibfinder.uk](http://www.defibfinder.uk)) draws information from The Circuit. Another site called HeartSafe, a British company supplying AED defibrillators and pads, also maintains a locator site. [www.heartsafe.org.uk](http://www.heartsafe.org.uk)

Location	Registered with	Availability
Stiperstones Inn	Heart safe	Update required
Bog Visitor Centre	The Circuit	Unavailable
Snailbeach Village Hall	The Circuit	All times
Habberley Village Hall	Heartsafe	Update required
Minsterley Village Hall	The Circuit	All times
Lords Hill	The Circuit	All times
Norbury Village Hall	The Circuit	All times
Bridges	The Circuit	All times
Hyssington Village Hall	The Circuit	All times
Lydham Village Hall	?	Unavailable

**Alyson Small**  
February 2026

# CRAFTY MONDAYS

## CRAFT AND CHAT

2<sup>ND</sup> MONDAY OF THE MONTH  
LOUNGE AREA

AT

MINSTERLEY METHODIST CHURCH

7 PM TO 9 PM

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

LESLEY ON 01743-791045

OR SANDRA ON 01743-891861

OR

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For more information, contact Heather Ryder  
on 01743 790359 or ryder928@btinternet.com

## Answers

2	9	8	7	5	3	4	1	6
3	1	7	8	4	6	2	9	5
4	5	6	2	9	1	7	8	3
5	7	9	3	2	8	1	6	4
1	2	4	6	7	5	8	3	9
8	6	3	4	1	9	5	7	2
9	3	2	5	8	7	6	4	1
6	8	5	1	3	4	9	2	7
7	4	1	9	6	2	3	5	8

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 POTSEVFOIANDOCALIOENS  
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 PUESSRYNEEAMUAP  
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# TUESDAY

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(covers all our magazine area except Minsterley)

**SHREWSBURY RURAL WEST**  
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(covers Minsterley)

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Twitter: [@ShrewsburyCops](https://twitter.com/ShrewsburyCops)  
Email: [shrewsburyrw.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk](mailto:shrewsburyrw.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk)

CRIME/INCIDENTS TO NOTE REPORTED			
CHIRBURY, WORTHEN, HOPE, SHELVE & STIPERSTONE			
16 <sup>th</sup> January 2026 – 15 <sup>th</sup> February 2026			
CRIME	DETAILS	LOCATION	NOTES
Burglary	Uninhabited property broken into, untidy search made, unknown if anything taken	Bentlawnt	Occurred twice, between 2 <sup>nd</sup> Feb – 9 <sup>th</sup> February 2026
Theft	Historical offence of money being taken without permission	Snailbeach	

## LIVESTOCK WORRYING

Over the last month we received a report of two ewes, both in lamb, being attacked by a dog in a field on the outskirts of Bishop’s Castle. Under the Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953 it is an offence to allow a dog to worry sheep; worrying includes attacking or chasing sheep (this act is being amended as of 18<sup>th</sup> March 2026 to define more clearly ‘attack’ and ‘worrying’ as stress alone can injure or kill livestock). Certain types of working dogs are exempt from being under close control in a field of livestock, as long as they are performing the role in question.

A farmer/person with permission to graze on the land has the legal right under the Animals Act 1971 to shoot a dog to stop it from continuing to worry livestock. Lambing season has commenced which historically coincides with increased reports of livestock being worried or attacked by dogs, particularly where the farmland has rights of way passing through it.

Dog owners have a responsibility to keep their dogs under control at all times. It is vital that dogs are kept under close control around livestock, even if they can usually be trusted to come to call. If living in or near a farming area, please make sure that your dog is secure and cannot escape from the property.

## OPERATION WHITEBEAM – RURAL CRIME

During the evening of the 10<sup>th</sup> February and into the early hours of the 11<sup>th</sup> February officers from across South Shropshire carried out another phase of Op. Whitebeam. This proactive policing approach focuses on identifying and disrupting criminals intent on targeting our rural communities. Alongside enforcement activity officers visited vulnerable locations to offer crime prevention advice, discuss protection tactics, and provide reassurance through high-visibility patrols.

We don’t post about every operation we run, but we do want our communities to know that this work is ongoing, consistent and something we are fully committed to. We continue to work closely with partners and the public to prevent offences and keep our rural areas safe. As is often the case, while searching for one thing we encountered another: officers arrested a male for suspected drug driving and possession of cannabis, and one vehicle was seized. The team also supported response colleagues at several incidents throughout the evening.

We had no reported burglaries during this time and it’s this high visibility the we know deters offending. We will persist in the fight against rural crime.

## Letting the Light in

Spring does not arrive cleanly or all at once. It comes slowly and unevenly. The sounds of returning birds herald warmer weather, green shoots appear before the cold has fully released its hold. Even as the days lengthen, winter often still lingers. Spring understands something that faith has always known: that renewal is rarely quick, and almost never comfortable.

For me, spring is forever bound to the weeks I spent sitting beside my mother as she was dying. It was a season of watching and waiting. In her final days, nights seemed to stretch without end. At around four in the morning birds would begin to sing outside her hospital window. Their sound floated into the room as we kept watch, fragile and persistent. Slowly the sky would lighten. Family would arrive. Nurses would come in with their laughter, their friendship, their quiet competence. Little by little, the weight of the night would begin to lift and the light broke in.

The morning my mother died a dove cooed outside the window. It was an ordinary sound, easily overlooked, but it felt like a sign: God, by his Holy Spirit, had seen us and God was present within it all. The following day the weather broke into full spring sunshine. Within days the trees burst into leaf, bright and astonishingly green. Amidst grief and deep tiredness, life was continuing to unfold and beauty was to be found everywhere, and yet still for many months it was hard to worship, hard to pray and hard to hear God's voice.

The Biblical story never pretends that light appears without darkness first. As we read the Christmas story in the depths of the British winter, Luke is careful not to place God's arrival in ideal conditions but in a world shaped by political pressure, anxiety, grief and ordinary hardship. God's work of revealing himself does not begin with triumph or glory, but with quiet presence in tumultuous circumstances.

Many of us recognise that pattern in our own lives. We wait for things to feel resolved before we allow ourselves to hope. We tell ourselves that joy can come later, once the worry has passed or the loss has softened. That we'll return to church when the kids are older, or pray again when God isn't so mad about our bad choices. But Luke offers a different picture. Light appears while things are

imperfect and unfinished, and bringing all that mess into the light is what makes it easier to bear.

Spring often teaches the same lesson. It does not begin when the ground is warm, but when it is just beginning to thaw. The first signs of life are fragile and (like the camelia in my garden) sometimes thwarted on a first attempt at breakthrough. We might spot a single bud on a bare branch or daffodils appearing in Tesco. These are not signs that winter is finished, but reminders that its days are numbered. Spring has broken into the harshness of winter despite the most unfavourable conditions.

This is not a dramatic kind of hope. It does not erase grief or hurry us toward resolution. Instead it sits alongside what is unfinished. Luke shows us a God who enters the ordinary: long journeys, crowded spaces, tired bodies, uncertain futures. Light does not come to deny reality, but to dwell within it.



As spring reaches its fullness it reminds us that light works patiently. Each day grows brighter and longer almost without us noticing. Growth happens slowly and quietly. Faith, too, is less about sudden certainty and more about learning to trust the small signs of presence along the way.

Luke's Gospel invites us to pay attention to where light has already begun to show itself, and to embrace it wholeheartedly no matter how unfavourable the conditions of life. Because, like the signs of spring in the dark of winter, God is here in the world and breaking into even the bleakest of circumstances. This hope is not sentimental optimism but learning to recognise the presence of God with us, and gently making space again for him to meet us.

**Rev Jane Plackett-Ferguson**  
**Chaplain to the Bishop of Hereford**

## Local organisations offering help and support

Here are some contact details you might find useful. This page was updated in January 2022, but if you find anything to be out of date, incorrect or not relevant please let the editor know. Likewise please share details of any other group which can offer support to local residents. Thank you.

**Rea Valley Foodbank** 07902 794653  
Food parcels available locally in Minsterley and Pontesbury. Referral needed.

**Rea Valley Transport Scheme** 07468 115939  
Enabling residents to access medical appointments. Please give a minimum of a week's notice.

**Community Good Neighbours, Rea Valley**  
07944 891953

Get in touch with a local Good Neighbour for a friendly chat, small errands and support to stay active and connected within the community.

**Pontesbury Community and Care Co-ordinator**  
01743 790325

Helen Tazewell can give assistance to patients of all ages in need of help, support and advice by signposting to other useful services. She works Monday and Wednesday locally.

**Healthy Shropshire** 0345 678 9025  
Shropshire Council telephone line for information and advice on a healthy lifestyle, including smoking, alcohol, weight, exercise and other matters.

**Shrewsbury Food Hub** [Shrewsburyfoodhub.org.uk](http://Shrewsburyfoodhub.org.uk)  
Surplus food share tables across Shrewsbury. See Facebook page for venue details.

**Shrewsbury "foodbank PLUS"** 07421 745857  
Food parcels, debt advice, returning to work, digital Inclusion, life skills. Referral needed.

**Citizens Advice Shropshire** 0344 499 1100  
Confidential advice and help to solve problems with debt, benefits, housing, legal matters & employment.

Need help claiming Universal Credit? Call their dedicated Help to Claim helpline, 0800 144 8444

**Keep Shropshire Warm** 0800 112 3743  
Advice and grants for people struggling with heating and energy bills.

**Age UK Shropshire Telford & Wrekin**  
01743 233123

Confidential advice for older people, their families and carers.

**Shropshire Council Housing Support**  
0345 678 9005

Support on all housing matters particularly rentals and homelessness.

**Shropshire Mental Health Support** 01743 368647  
Mental health support.

**Shropshire Recovery Partnership** 01743 294700  
Drugs and alcohol support.

**Shropshire Rural Support** 0300 123 2825  
Confidential support during periods of anxiety and stress, and with problems relating to family and business. Website: [shropshireruralsupport.org.uk](http://shropshireruralsupport.org.uk).

**Samaritans** 116 123  
Free 24/7 confidential support whatever you are going through.

**Shropshire Domestic Abuse Helpline**  
0300 303 1191  
Support for anyone suffering domestic violence.

**West Mercia Women's Aid** 0800 783 1359  
24hr helpline for women and children suffering from domestic violence.

**Shropshire Carers' Support Service** 01743 341995  
Wide range of support for unpaid carers.



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**[www.shirestairlifts.co.uk](http://www.shirestairlifts.co.uk)**





The Trading Post re-opened in February with a good stock of seed potatoes, onion and shallot sets and various pea, bean and beetroot seeds. We received our bulk load of multi-purpose compost, which has a reduced peat content, and this is on special offer for the purchase of three bags or more. We also have two varieties of peat-free potting compost and a good stock of growbags, as well as three grades of John Innes potting and ericaceous compost, plus various fertilisers.

The Association's Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 3rd March at 7.30pm in the Len Simpson Room of Pontesbury Public Hall.

We are looking to appoint a new Chair and someone to look after the publicity as well as new people to join the Committee. If you are interested in getting more involved in the Association then talk to anyone at the Trading Post on a Saturday morning and/or come along to the AGM. Refreshments will be available after the main business of the meeting is concluded.

We now take payments by card (debit or credit) as well as by cash to make life easier for all.

The Trading Post is situated in Old Station Buildings on Station Road and is open every Saturday from 9.30 to 12 noon.

Rob Dixon  
[robodixon@btopenworld.com](mailto:robodixon@btopenworld.com)

## DAISY PULLS IT OFF by Denise Deegan

Abbey Foregate Church Drama Group will perform "Daisy Pulls It Off" on Wednesday 27th to Saturday 30th May at 7.30pm at our usual venue, St. Nicholas' Hall.

Daisy Meredith, the new girl, is the first scholarship student to attend the Grangewood School for Girls. Some of the privileged students are determined to make Daisy look bad in the eyes of the administration. However, Grangewood has its own problems, financial ones. After a series of ripping adventures, Daisy wins over her chums, and saves the school when she cracks a secret code, finds the missing treasure and saves the life of her chief persecutor all on the same night!

The play will be performed in the genre of Physical Theatre where the narrative, set, props and staging are communicated through heightened movement, gesture, and (of course) hockey sticks! This Olivia Award-winning rollicking yarn about life in a 1920s English Boarding School promises to be jolly good fun for all the family.

Tickets cost £12 (£6 for under 18s) and can be obtained through the Drama Group website on [info@abbeydrama.com](mailto:info@abbeydrama.com) or by telephoning the Drama Group phone (07951 862881) or Robert Currie (01743 790123).

Nick Jones and Robert Currie

## Questions you might ask

**Question** – I have seen a Shopmobility centre in my local shopping mall. What do they offer?

**Answer** – Shopmobility centres are located throughout the UK and they offer mobility equipment which can be hired to enable people with mobility problems to shop more easily. Equipment can include: mobility scooters, powered and manual wheelchairs, rollators and some offer accessible parking. The majority of centres are registered charities. It is advisable to book in advance, and you can find details of the 120+ locations on the website [www.shopmobilityuk.org](http://www.shopmobilityuk.org).

**Question** – My elderly parents are becoming frail as time goes by, I need to get to know about aids and equipment and possibly a bathroom change. Do I approach Social Services first and what can they help with?

**Answer** – For an older person who needs support of any kind to remain as independent as possible, the first thing to do is to contact Social Services and ask for a free Care Needs Assessment.

Following an assessment, Social Services may make an appointment for an Occupational Therapist (OT) to visit before deciding what aids or adaptations are needed. Social Services can provide free equipment and funds for minor adaptations up to £1,000 in England and Wales. For major adaptations, it may be possible to apply for a Disabled Facilities Grant, if you are eligible.

Angela Gifford  
[www.ablecommunitycare.com](http://www.ablecommunitycare.com)

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# WEEKLY EVENTS



## MONDAY

### YOUTH CAFE (term time)

3.30 - 5pm

Years 7 - 10 | activities | snacks | free Wi-Fi | music  
Contact Joe on 07387 578230 for more information

### BIBLE STUDY

7 - 8pm

Group meets every two weeks. For information contact Greg Smith 07902 794653



## TUESDAY

### REA VALLEY FOODBANK

10am - 12pm

For information contact Greg Smith 07902 794653 or go to [www.reavalleyfoodbank.co.uk](http://www.reavalleyfoodbank.co.uk)

### ICTHUS BIBLE STUDY GROUP

2.30 - 4.30pm

2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month. For information contact [PApontstip@outlook.com](mailto:PApontstip@outlook.com)



## WEDNESDAY

### COFFEE HUB

10am - 12pm

A drop-in community cafe where everyone is welcome. FREE tea and coffee | cake and biscuits | chat and companionship



## THURSDAY

### TRINITY TOTS (term time)

10am - 11.30pm

A pre-school drop-in group for under 5s with their parents or carers. Activities | crafts | toys | stories | songs | snacks

ALL OUR WEEKLY GROUPS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO EVERYONE

For more details about these events please visit [www.stiperstoneschurch.org.uk](http://www.stiperstoneschurch.org.uk) or follow us on **Facebook** (scan the QR code)







## REA VALLEY METHODIST CHURCH

ARE HOSTING AN OPEN DAY AT

## MINSTERLEY METHODIST CHURCH

(HORSEBRIDGE ROAD - ON THE RIGHT JUST DOWN FROM THE VETS)

**28<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2026**

**11.00AM TO 2.00PM**

COME ALONG FOR A CHAT, ENJOY SOME SCRUMMY REFRESHMENTS AND BROWSE THE VARIOUS STALLS WE WILL HAVE WHICH WILL INCLUDE BOOKS, PLANTS ETC

WE WILL ALSO BE HOLDING A RAFFLE WITH 4 WONDERFUL HAMPERS TO BE WON

### “One Church” prayer meeting

Worthen Methodist Chapel

4.30-5.30pm every Wednesday

to pray for the Rea Valley

All are welcome to come and join, or to pray with us from wherever you are at that time.

Domini Lucas

### Minsterley Methodist Church

10am Sunday services



1<sup>st</sup> March Café Praise ... exploring the faith informally – led by Rev Brian Spencer

8<sup>th</sup> March Preacher – Mrs Helen Pearson

15<sup>th</sup> March Minsterley Praise at Holy Trinity. Service will be at **10.30am**

22<sup>nd</sup> March Preacher – Mrs Dilys Jones

29<sup>th</sup> March Hosanna Praise for Palm Sunday led by Rev Brian Spencer

A warm welcome is extended to everyone who would like to come and join us at any of our services and for refreshments afterwards.

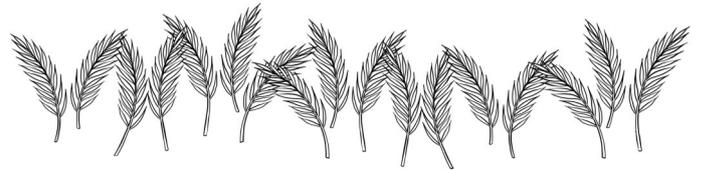
Sandra Lewis

## St Lukes' church Snailbeach

### Services for 2026

Book the dates now for the further occasional services in Snailbeach:

3rd May	3.00pm	
12th July	3.00pm	(welcoming the new curate)
13th Sept	9.00am	Holy Communion
4th Oct	10.30am	Harvest joint service with Holy Trinity Minsterley followed by refreshments in the village hall
8th Nov	3.00pm	Remembrance service
25th Dec	9.00am	Christmas Day communion



### Stiperstones group of churches - recent 'life event' services

Hope church  
funeral & burial. 27th January  
Lucy Ellen Ashley (1937 - 2025)

### Snailbeach Methodist Chapel

2.45pm Sunday services

1st March. Led by Helen Pearson

15th March. Led by Rev Brian Spencer

We meet in the schoolroom adjacent to the chapel. All are welcome to come.

Sue Priddey (01743 790913)

# Our partner churches in the Stiperstones Group —

## St Luke's Festival Church Snailbeach



St Luke's is a "Festival Church." Services are usually held on five festival days: Mothering Sunday, Easter, Harvest Festival, Remembrance Sunday and Christmas day. A few other services are planned too. See Stiperstones churches website.

**Next services:**

15th March 9.00am	Mothering Sunday
	Holy Communion with pots of flowers!
5th April 9.00am	Easter Sunday
	Holy communion

## St Mary's Parish Church Habberley

**Church Wardens** Pauline Stopford, The Kennels, Habberley (01743 790784)  
 Pearl Hannigan, 9 Yarlington Orchard, Pontesbury (01743 790495)

Sunday 8th March	5.00pm	Evensong
Sunday 22nd	5.00pm	Holy Communion
Sunday 29th	10.30am	Group service at St George's Pontesbury



## Hope & Shelve Parish

(services at Holy Trinity Church Hope  
and All Saints' Church Shelve)

**Church Warden** Barbara Venables

Refreshments are served at all our services



**March 2026**

Sunday 1st	9.00am	Shelve	Holy Communion
Sunday 8th	9.00am	Hope	Holy Communion
Sunday 15th	9.00am	Shelve	Worship Together
Sunday 22nd	9.00am	Hope	Morning Prayer
Sunday 29th	10.30am	St George's Pontesbury	Group service

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